controlling locust in the cultivated areas in the Districts of Ajmer, Alwar, Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Jaipur, Jalore, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali, Rajsamand, Sawai Madhopur, Sikar, Sirohi, Sri Ganganagar and Uaipur.

(b) Six high level Indo-Pakistan Bilateral Meetings have been held since 1975. The last meeting was held at Islamabad on 8-9 June, 1988. Keeping in view the seriousness of locust situation, frequency of border meetings was increased and during the period from June to November, 1993, ten border meetings of the Indo-Pakistan locust officers were held to discuss locust situation and control operations in both the countries.

The following international assistance has been received through FAO so far:—

(i) 15 High Frequency (HF) Radio Sets.

(ii) 20.2 MT of fenitrothion ULV.

(iii) 100 hand held battery operated MICRO-ULVA sprayers.

(iv) 8ULVA-MAST, Vehicle mounted sprayers.

Revision of price of dried coconut

2080. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to revise the support price of dried coconut fixed in 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The Government has already fixed the minimum support price of milling copra at Rs. 2150 per qutl. and that of ball at at Rs. 2350 per quintal for 1993 seasons.

Harmful effets of pesticide

2081. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD MODY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farmers in Egypt, China, Malaysia South Pacific, Islands, Costa Rica, Brazil Holland, Sweden and Texas have slashed pestiide use and are harvesting greate yields than before;

(b) whether Government propose t advise the Indian farmers to cut pesticide use by 50 percent to save cost and increase prooduction, as the use of pesticide is proving harmful; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and th reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The adoption of Integrated Pest Management approach ha enabled the farmers to reduce the consumption of chemical pesticides in many countries.

(b) and (c) In order to minimise th use of chemical pesticides the Government is promoting Integrated Pest Management technology wherein it is advocated that chemiccal pesticides should be used as a last resert on the basis o economic threshold level of pests.

Policy on agricultural mechanisation

2082. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: W the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Committee to draft a policy o agricultural mechanisation; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that merely three percent of the American population i.e. about seven million people are engaged in agriculture as compard to about 500 million in India;

(c) whether it is a fact that the two countries produce probably an equal amount of foodgrains if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering a scheme to pesticide use and are harvesting greater areas of work to lessen the burden of land; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. A Statemen, giving details of the Committee is annexed. (*See* below).

(b) Available statistics indicate that in 1992, about 2.42 per cent of the total American population was engaged in agriculture as compared to about 545.93 million in India.

(c) Foodgrains production in USA, during 1992, was 346.90 million metric tonnes, whereas, in India, it was 175.93 million metric tonnes. Large holdings, high degree of mechanisation, favourable agro climatic conditions and extensive use of quality inputs are the main reasons for hihger productivity.

(d) No, Sir.

Statement

(a) The composition of the Committee is as under :—

(i) Joint Secretary (Incharge Machinery) Dept. of Agri. & Coopn.	Chairman
(ii) Deputy Director General (Engineering) I.C.A.R., Krishi Bhavan	Member
(iii) Head, Agrilultural Engineering	Member
(a) Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana	Member
(b) Tamil Nadu Agricultral Univeristy, Coimbatore	Member
(iv) Director/Joint Director, Agricultural Engineering, Orissa, Maharashtra	Member
(v) Eminent person in the field of Agricultural Engineering, Shri D.N. Kherdekar, Nagpur	Member
(vi) Director, Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal	Member
(vii) Representative of Ministry of Water Resources (Minor Irrigation Division)	Member
(viii) Representative of Development Commissioner, (Small Scale Industry)	Member
(ix) Agriculture Commissioner. Deptt. of A & C	Member
(x) Horticulture Commissioner, Deptt. of A & C	Member
(xi) Addl. Commissioner (Soil & Water Conservation) Deptt. of Agri. & Coopn.	Member
	Member
(xii) Joint Commissioner (Machinery) Deptt. of Agri. & Coopn.	Secretary

The terms of reference of the Committee are as under :—

(a) The status of the current usage of agricultural machinery in the states, problems in adoption of improved implements and make recommendation for making more efficient and economic use of the same;

(b) The status of agricultural engineering input with regard to usage of ground water, conservation of soil, soil moisture and soil fertility and measures to further improve the engineering input on these aspects;

(c) The status of utilisation of the renewable resources of energy such as biogas, biomass, solar energy and animal energy etc. in agricultural and rural sector;

(d) Manufacture and supply position of agricultural implements, constraints etc.;

(e) Incentives given to the farmers procurement of farm equipment and other devices;

(f) Impact of mechanisation on productivity, rural income and employment; and

(g) Status of development of labour saving devices for farm women.

Drought in Uttar Pradesh

2083. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whetner it is a fact that a drought like condition prevailed in more than half of the 63 districts in Uttar Pradesh due to scanty rainfall in July this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the worst-hit districts were in the Central and Eastern parts of the State;
Central and Eastern parts of the State;

(d) if so details thereof; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to cope up with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh had declared 40 districts as drought affected These districts had received a commulative rainfall of less than 60 per cent of the normal rainfall in the month of July and upto 15th August, 1993.

(c) and (d) The Worst affected districts were Lucknow Hardoi, Raebareilly Kanpurdehat and Unnao in central Uttar Pradesn and Sultanpur, Mirzapur, Varanasi, Allahabad, Pratapgarh, Fatehpur and Sonbhadra in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

(e) The steps taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to cope up with the situation included the following:—

(1) Suspension of realisation of land revenue, irrigation dues etc., till 31st October, 1993;

(2) Creation of 296.69 lakn manday at a cost of Rs. 118.01 crores under employment generation programmes;

(3) Installation of handpumps and provision of maximum irrigation facilities to standing crops.

(4) Ensuring availability of essential commodities and diesel through Public Distribution System.

(5) Ensuring availability of Fodder and drinking water facilities to cattle and prevention of cattle diseases;

(6) Distribution of free ration and dhoties to destitutes;

(7) Distribution of gratuitous relief and distress taqavi in critical areas

Help sought by Chief Minister of Maharashtra for Earthquake relief

2084. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: